

REMARKS

With entry of the foregoing amendment, the claims in the case are: 1, 2, 4 5, 10 and 11.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that hydrophobization is by reaction with a halogen free silane and compaction is by a roller compactor or belt filter press. Basis is found in the application on page 2, lines 1-3, and in original Claims 3, 6 and 7. No new matter is presented.

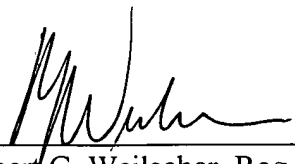
Applicant has established that different apparatus used for the compaction of the fumed silica can have a major effect on the properties of the product. The ball mill destroys the structure of the fumed silica. The structure of fumed silica is built-up by the small particles, which form aggregates. These aggregates are responsible for the thickening effect of the fumed silica. Enclosed are pages of the document "Schriftenreihe Pigmente Nr. 11", published in 1993, by the assignee of this application, which shows the structure of fumed silicas (see chapter 3.21) to be primarily aggregates.

If this structure is milled by a ball mill, this structure will be destroyed and the thickening effect is not further available. If the fumed silica is compacted by the belt filter press, the thickening effect remains effective completely.

Examination on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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